



# Macrophyllum

September 2007

Newsletter of the  
**Siuslaw Chapter**  
**American Rhododendron Society**  
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## UPCOMING Chapter Events

**Chapter Meeting** – the September meeting is on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101. Pre-meeting dinner will be at ICM in Old Town. Contact Eileen McKenney ahead of time for reservations (541) 997-2222 or [egmc@charter.net](mailto:egmc@charter.net).

**Cookie Team for Sept-** Nancy Fulmer, Sandi Hennig, Rosemary Rebello, Jenny Velinty

**September Topic – Propagation of Rhododendrons and Azaleas.**

**Gallagher Park Work Party** – Thursday 9/20. Meet at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The park is at the corner of Spruce and Hwy 126. Gene Cockeram- City of Florence Park & Recreation Committee.

**Dues-** Don't forget to bring your checkbook or cash to pay your dues this month.

**Fall Conference** – September 21-23 in Newport Oregon. If you haven't received a registration pkt, let Merilee know by e-mail ([gmmulvey@oregonfast.net](mailto:gmmulvey@oregonfast.net)) and one will be sent to you asap! Or go to the conference website at <http://www.rhodies.org/temp/westernregional2007.pdf> where a complete copy of the conference program and registration form is available.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT By: Mike Bones**

Welcome back from your summer break. Jeannie Shields stepped down as Vice President, Marianne Horney accepted the position. Thank You, Marianne. In June we elected a new member to the board, Linda Swarz, congratulations Linda. We are looking forward to working with these two new board members. At our June annual meeting, Gene Cockeram was awarded the Bronze Medal from the Chapter. He is the first member in our chapter to receive it twice from the same chapter.

Thanks for all of your great work Gene.

Our first meeting will be on propagation of Rhododendrons and Azaleas. It is one that you will not want to miss, bring a friend. It's always exciting to get your first cutting to root, grow and bloom. You can give it to a friend, neighbor or someone who has admired the original plant in your garden. What a way to back to the chapter, those little plants that could be auctioned off at one of our auctions.

The Western Regional Rhododendron Conference will be held in Newport, Oregon, September 21-23. It is informative to attend these conferences because not only will you broaden your interests in the cultivation of Rhododendrons, but you will meet and make new friendships that will last for many years. Our chapter will be making centerpieces for each table for the dinner banquet, and we will be having one of our foliage displays.

A reminder that our Christmas potluck & garden gift exchange will be on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. It is not too early to look for gift.

We have some exciting meetings coming up this year. We meet on the Third Tuesday of each month; mark your calendars, bring a friend and enjoy the friendship of others in the chapter and learn about Rhododendrons.

**2007 ARS Rhododendron Of The Year Awards for the Northwestern USA.** For more information, visit the national website: <http://www.rhododendron.org/roy07nw.htm>

**Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Nancy Evans'**

R. 'Hotei' x R. 'Lem's Cameo'

Flower light yellow with some early orange shading on lobes and reverse, orange-red buds, hose-in-hose, openly funnel-shaped, wavy lobes, 2-1/2" across. Held in ball-shaped trusses of 19 flowers. Blooms midseason. Leaves narrowly elliptic to elliptic, 4" long, glossy, medium green, bronze colored when new. Rounded, compact plant habit. Grows to a typical height of 3 ft. in 10 yrs. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Hybridized by Brockenbrough

**Evergreen Azalea: 'Mitsuki'**

R. 'Girard's Rose' sport

Flower white with numerous irregular streaks of light purple, openly funnel-shaped, 2-1/2" across. Flat inflorescence holds 2-3 flowers. Blooms early midseason. Leaves elliptic, broadly acute apex, cuneate base, margins up-curved, 1-1/8" long, dull green. Dense growth habit. Grows to a typical height of 2 ft in 10 yrs. Hardy to 5°F (-15°C). Grown from seed obtained by Higashi Nursery from Hiroshima, Japan.

**Deciduous Azalea: 'Cecile'**

Parentage unknown

Flower salmon pink with yellow blotch on upper lobe, tubular funnel-shaped, 3" to 5" across. Ball-shaped, dense truss contains 8-11 flowers. Blooms midseason to late midseason. Leaves elliptic with acute apex and cuneate base, deciduous. Upright, open habit. Grows to a height of 6 ft. in 10 years. Hardy to -5°F (-21°C). Initially raised by Lionel de Rothschild.



## The 'Glasgow Boys' who brought the rhododendron into art

The diversity of Rhododendrons became plain to the world with the publication of Sir Joseph Hooker's magnificent Elephant Folio volume *The Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya* in 1849-1851. Glasgow graduate Sir Joseph Hooker (1817-1911), MA 1839, was the son of Sir William Hooker, who held the Regius Chair of Botany at Glasgow in 1831. Hooker devoted his career to making and describing botanical collections in North India in the 1840s with his childhood friend Thomas Thomson (1817-1878) before becoming Assistant and then Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, succeeding his father. Hooker encouraged gardeners in the West of Scotland to grow his Himalayan rhododendrons from seed - with great success.

Tab XII of Hooker's *'The rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya'* (London :Reeve and Co., 1849. GUL Call No Sp Coll e18). *Rhododendron Thomsoni* - deep blood red named after "Dr Thomas Thomson ...my earliest friend and companion during my College life, and now my travelling companion in Eastern Himalaya"

### OVERSEAS RHODY ADVENTURE

Here is the perfect overseas trip for 2008! The **Scottish Rhododendron Society** will be celebrating their silver jubilee by hosting the 2008 International Rhododendron Conference.

The conference will be held from Wednesday, May 7, 2008 through Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

There will be pre-convention tours to notable gardens in the region. The pre-convention tours are scheduled from May 3 through May 6. (Don't forget a visit to the Royal Botanical Garden at Edinburg.)

The contact person for registration and information is:

Marjory McFarlane, Conference Registrar  
14 Loaning Crescent Peebles Tweedle,  
Scotland EH45 9JR

e-mail: [Marjory.mcfarlane@gmail.com](mailto:Marjory.mcfarlane@gmail.com)  
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*This rhododendron was growing in the woods near Scone Palace in Angus, Scotland. See website: [http://www.rampantscotland.com/flowers/summer\\_c.htm](http://www.rampantscotland.com/flowers/summer_c.htm)*

## Dear Dr. Rhody

Hi fellow Rhododendron lovers. It seems this column is usually about bad weather – too hot - too cold or other problems associated with the growing of our favorite plants. This year we have been really fortunate in Western Oregon. The weather has been perfect for Rhododendrons. We were blessed with occasional rain and mild temperatures all summer long.

I hope your plants are doing as well as mine. I have a great bud set for next year and almost all of my plants look really happy.

I would suggest that you begin reducing the amount of irrigation you provide for your plants. It's time to "harden" them for the coming winter. You don't want to encourage new growth at this time of year. If a sudden freeze should occur the new growth would most certainly die.

I would also suggest you do not fertilize after September for the same reason. You don't want to encourage new growth at this time of the year.

If your plants are too close together fall is a perfect time to move them. Usually plants moved in the fall actually begin new root growth and begin to adjust to the new location before the weather causes them to become semi-dormant.

Have a great autumn and please, if you have any concerns I can help with, write, send an e-mail, or call.

Dr. Rhody

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## Siuslaw Chapter ARS Mission Statement

The Mission of the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is to promote the genus Rhododendron by:

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- Creating enthusiasm for the genus Rhododendron through meetings, shows, publications, and social activities that provide the opportunities for members to share experiences and build friendships.
- Providing educational opportunities to successfully grow and enjoy these wonderful plants.
- Encouraging propagation and hybridizing of species and hybrid rhododendrons.
- Furthering the planting and use of rhododendrons and azaleas in home, business, and public landscapes.
- Advocating the conservation and preservation of superior plants of our native Rhododendrons and their habitat along the Oregon Coast.
- Advancing and supporting the mission of the American Rhododendron Society.